

numbers were also found dead on the ground in the vicinity of the buildings frequented by them. Twenty-two nests were examined on one barn, about six miles northeast of this city, and thirty-seven dead birds were found in the nests. About two miles from this barn one hundred nests were examined on a large barn and dead birds were found, one or more in each nest. Five or six miles northwest of the city a like condition of affairs was reported. An investigation in a section of country six or eight north and fifteen or twenty miles south of the city revealed a similar destruction of Eave Swallows; the ground about the barn on one farm was reported "covered with dead birds." The dead specimens examined were exceedingly emaciated, and they apparently had starved to death. Their crops were empty.

Probably the cause of this destruction was as follows. We had about a week of warm weather at the time the Eave Swallows came, this being followed by a prolonged cool period during which time but little insect life could be found, and the birds starved to death. The warm week early in the season may have served to bring the birds North in advance of their usual time. From whatever cause the destruction resulted, the fact remains that in this section of Northern Illinois over ninety per cent of the Eave Swallows have died.

Probably from the same influence that proved so hostile to the Eave Swallows, the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) has this season much diminished in numbers. As nearly as I can judge we have not over one tenth of the usual number in this section. The Chimney Swifts are also present in greatly reduced numbers. It would be interesting to learn how extensive has been the destruction of these three species.—F. H. KIMBALL, M. D., Rockford, Illinois.

The Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) near Washington, D. C.—On July 28, 1889, while collecting at Four Mile Run, Virginia, a short distance from Washington, Mr. J. D. Figgins and the writer were fortunate enough to secure five specimens of the Yellow-throated Warbler. At the same locality, on August 1, a short search revealed five more specimens, and on August 5, still another bird was taken, making eleven in all. The five taken on July 28 were in very poor condition and beginning to moult, while the other six were in full fall plumage. All were adults.

Previous to the capture of the specimens just mentioned, but two Yellow-throated Warblers had been recorded from this vicinity, the first collected in 1842, and the second taken by Mr. William Palmer at Arlington, Virginia, Sept. 7, 1881. Both are preserved in the National Museum.

This species has been observed more or less commonly at several places south of Washington, in Maryland and Virginia—Quantico, Va., twenty-nine miles from here, being the nearest.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Washington, D. C.

Troglodytes ædon, House Wren, Building in a Hornets' Nest.—Among the variety of novel nesting places chosen by this little bird, I

probably have witnessed one unobserved before by ornithologists. On May 18, 1889, near Chelsea, Delaware Co., Pennsylvania, I observed a pair of Wrens diligently engaged in lugging sticks into a large hornets' nest, which was hanging under the cornice of an old farmhouse. Near the top of the nest a cavity had been excavated, evidently by the birds, as the ground underneath was strewn with its fragments. I was unable afterwards to visit that locality, but from inquiry feel confident, they succeeded in rearing their brood unmolested.—J. HARRIS REED, *Chester, Pa.*

Birds near Springfield, Massachusetts.—Throughout the early summer of 1888, near the main highway between Springfield and Westfield, and in the immediate vicinity of three farmhouses, a male Mockingbird remained, singing incessantly. This year at exactly the same spot the bird has again appeared. Although I have never seen the female, still there is very little doubt that there is one there and that they bred there last year and are doing the same this year.

On September 14, 1889, I shot and captured a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) upon the Connecticut River, four or five miles below Springfield. Its presence so far inland can undoubtedly be accounted for by the very violent northeast storm that had prevailed for the preceding two or three days. The bird sat upon the water and permitted me to approach in a boat within fifteen or twenty yards,—it would then arise and fly perhaps a quarter of a mile, then alight, repeating this action several times, until I finally shot it.

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have bred in Agawam, near Springfield, this summer; this fact may not be worthy of mention, but it is quite rare to find them here.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Notes from Minnesota.—During a collecting trip to Madison, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota, which occupied the last three weeks in May, 1889, I observed among others the following birds:—

Limosa hæmastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.—A dozen or more seen in company with the Marbled Godwit. Two specimens taken.

Tringa fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Very abundant, inhabiting muddy sloughs, associated with Pectoral and Red-backed Sandpipers. A large series collected.

Arenaria interpres. TURNSTONE.—A small flock observed, out of which I secured four females and one male; found with Sandpipers.

Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni. NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—A single individual, a female, was shot on the edge of a swamp of wild rice. There were no markings on the breast, and the entire under parts were strongly tinged with buff, in this respect resembling *A. leconteii*.

Rhynchophanes mccownii. MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR.—A male was taken in a large field; it was in company with a large number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs.